



Fire District 4 FIRE & RESCUE

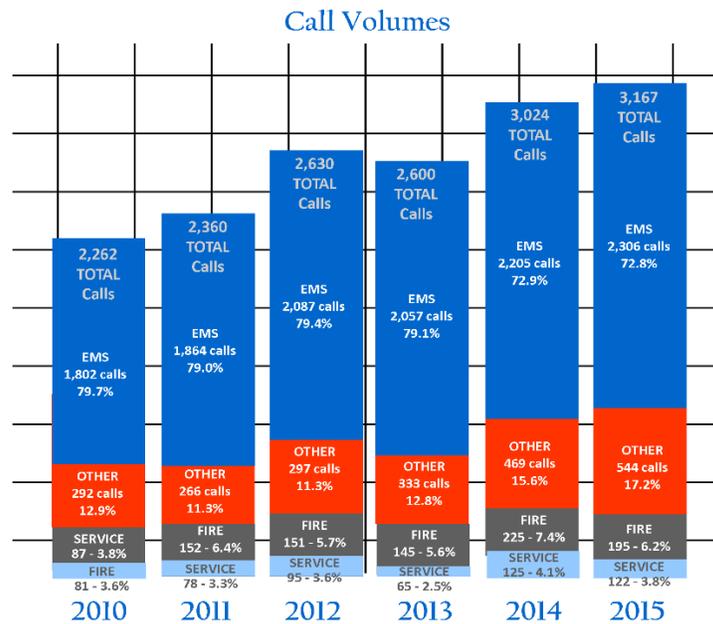
Serving North Spokane County

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Call volumes increase for Spokane County Fire District 4 in 2015
Medical emergencies accounted for 73% of all calls



Call volume data for Spokane County Fire District 4 from 2010-2015.

Chattaroy, Wash. – Call volumes jumped 4.6 percent for Spokane County Fire District 4 in 2015 with medical emergencies accounting for 73 percent of all calls.

Calls classified as “other” accounted for 17.2 percent, and represent false alarms or people with good intentions who report emergencies that don’t materialize. Firefighting or fire suppression accounted for 6.2 percent of all calls in 2015. “Service” calls made up 3.8 percent, and represent situations where firefighters assist other public agencies or individuals in emergencies that are not fire or medically related.

EMS calls have averaged 77 percent of total call volumes for Fire District 4 since 2010. In recent years, medical emergencies have accounted for as much as 80 percent of all calls. Fire district officials say that number is expected to increase as the local population ages.

Since 1992, voters have approved funding every six years for an EMS levy at \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. However, in 2010, the fire district asked voters to renew the levy at \$0.33 because of a difficult economy.

“It was the right thing to do for our community at the time,” said Fire Chief Randy Johnson. “But, now we’re playing catch up.”

Since 2010, EMS calls have spiked 28 percent for Fire District 4. More calls have meant additional costs for personnel, medical supplies, equipment, fuel, maintenance, and state fees.

To meet this demand for service, the Board of Fire Commissioners is considering asking voters to restore the EMS levy to \$0.50/\$1,000 before it expires at the end of 2016. That means the owner of a \$200,000 home would pay \$100 per year (approximately \$8.33 per month) for a 24-hour emergency medical response.

Fire District 4 will hold a public meeting in the spring to take input from the community before making its decision. The Board of Fire Commissioners would then pass a resolution placing the EMS levy renewal on the ballot for voter approval sometime in the fall.

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Spokane County Fire District 4 provides fire suppression and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to 45,000 people over 330 square miles in north Spokane County, including the city of Deer Park. Volunteer and part-time firefighters respond to more than 3,100 emergency calls per year; 77 percent on average are for EMS. Fire District 4 is proud to operate under a balanced budget and has passed all financial and accountability audits by the state.